

The following claims are presented for examination:

What is claimed is:

**1. (Currently Amended)** A comprising:

receiving an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of the sender from a presence server, wherein the presence status indicates a presence status of the sender across plurality of domains;

delivering the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the domains; and

**wherein the presence server determines the presence status of the sender based on a rule that aggregates extracted presence information.**

**wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.**

**2. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**3. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein the presence server translates the presence information to a standard format.

**4. (Canceled)**

**5. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient responds to the sender in another domain.

**6. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**7. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information is obtained from a user registration process.

**8. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

**9. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender in real time.

**10.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender in non-real time.

**11.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

**12.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

**13.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

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**14-18.** (Canceled)

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**19.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a memory; and  
at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:  
receive an email message from a sender;  
obtain a presence status of the sender from a presence server, wherein the presence status indicates a presence status of the sender across a plurality of domains;  
deliver the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the plurality of domains; and  
**wherein the presence server determines the presence status of the sender based on a rule that aggregates extracted presence information.**  
**wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.**

**20.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**21.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the presence server translates the presence information to a standard format.

**22.** (Canceled)

**23.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the recipient responds to the sender in another domain.

**24.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**25.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender using a non-textual form of communication.